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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Dan Scott Johnson

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EXAMINER

GRAHAM, PAUL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

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DELIVERY MODE

09/12/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/808,037	JOHNSON, DAN SCOTT	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paul J. Graham	2623	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/24/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the “related applications” section there are neither dates nor serial numbers for the related documents listed.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-11, 13-19, and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Kou et al. (US 2002/0078293 A1) in view of Takahashi et al. (US 2003/0093795 A1).

As to claim 1, Kou discloses an audio/video (A/V) component networking system, comprising (see Kou, [0020, 0024] for network system, “select a device” is a component, AV/C):

a presentation device adapted to present A/V program data to a user (see Kuo [0044], a TV, 216, as example of presentation device);

and a sink component (212) communicatively coupled to each of the source components, the sink component adapted to present to the user an aggregated listing of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components to enable the user to select particular A/V program data from at least one of the plurality of source components for presentation on the presentation device (see Kuo, [0044, 0053] for selection and presentation of aggregated list of data).

Kuo does not expressly teach a display of A/V program data; however, Takahashi, who discloses an EPG controller, does teach a plurality of source components each adapted to provide A/V program data (see Takahashi, fig. 7 and [0086-0088], and see Kuo, [0020, 0039], a source device and plurality such as VCR, CD unit, audio receiver).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the device controlling system of Kuo with the guide display of Takahashi so that a display of A/V program data may be displayed in a user-friendly manner, making the user's selection easier (see Takahashi, [0017]).

As to claim 2, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to decode the selected A/V program data (see Kuo, [0039], the controller device has a decoder and presents selected data).

As to claim 3, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to obtain the selected A/V program data from at least one of the plurality of source components and transfer the selected A/V program data to the presentation device in real-time (see Kuo [0053], displays the user selections as they are made).

As to claim 4, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to filter the aggregated A/V program data listing based on a format of the available A/V program data (see Kuo [0057, 0059] where target device and its data format are objects of the viewer menus).

As to claim 5, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register each of the plurality of source components with the sink component (see Kuo, [0068]).

As to claim 6, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to obtain the selected A/V program data from at least one of the plurality of source components via at least one of a plurality of different types of communication networks (see Kuo, [0062, 0069] connect over network bus).

As to claim 7, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to identify a format of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components (see Kuo, [0068-69], data format from VCR makes BW a consideration).

As to claim 8, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the source components is at least one of the group consisting of a satellite receiver source component, a digital versatile disk (DVD) source component, a cable source component, a computer, and a compact disc (CD) source component (see Kuo, [0039] and Fig. 2, a source may be a PC or CD, for example).

Claim 9 is similar to claim 4 and is therefore analyzed similar to claim 4.

As to claim 10, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to filter the aggregated A/V program data listing based on a type of the presentation device (see Kuo 0056-0057], once TV is display, then program data is filtered based on connectability).

As to claim 11, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register the presentation device with the sink component (see Kuo [0056], the TV is registered so that the input plugs are known [0059]).

As to claim 13, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to transparently display the aggregated A/V program data listing to the user relative to a source of the A/V program data (see Kuo, [0064], where VCR units, the sources, are not presented, rather their content is presented to user for chose to be made—transparent to user).

As to claims 14-19, and 21-23, they are similar to claims 1, 5, 7, 2, 11, 6, 4, 10, and 13, respectively. Therefore, claims 14-19, and 21-23 are analyzed similarly to claims 1, 5, 7, 2, 1, 6, 4, 10, 13, respectively.

As for claims 24-28, they are similar to claims 1, 15, 4, 10, 13, respectively. The means for accessing, registering, and filtering is the controller device; the means for presenting or displaying is the display device, such as the TV, (see Kuo, fig. 4A). Therefore, claims 24-28 are analyzed similar to claims 1, 15, 4, 10, and 13, respectively.

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5. Claims 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kou et al. (US 2002/0078293 A1) in view of Takahashi et al. (US 2003/0093795 A1) and in further view of Do (US 6 417 869 B1).

As to claim 12, Kuo discloses the system of claim 1 and Takahashi the display of A/V program data; however, Kuo does not expressly teach the sink component is adapted to display the aggregated A/V program data listing on the presentation device.

Do, who discloses a method and system of user interfacing, does expressly teach display of the data listing on the presentation device (see Do, col. 6, lines 1-21, where the TV monitor is the presentation device and fig. 6 or fig. 8 is an example of the view).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the network controlling system of Kuo with the presentation method of Do, so that such listed services or data can be made readily available to the user at home via a viewer at home (see Do, col. 1, lines 44-50).

Claim 20 is similar to claim 12 and therefore is analyzed like claim 12.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ludtke (US 6 237 049 B1) discloses a method for discovering functionality on an AV network.

### ***Inquiries***

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device (see [0012] A/V component system; see [0013] central storage; see [0065] and [0124] plurality of source components; see [0071] a sink component can also be a central server; see Fig. 11, element 235 notes both audio (music) and video (TV based content, which is A/V); see [0151] TV as presentation device and menu data displayed).

As to claim 13, Hunter discloses an audio/video (A/V) networking method (Fig. 11, 210), comprising: accessing, via a sink component (228), a centralized storage system (230) having a plurality of source components, each source component adapted to provide A/V program data (see [0128] a DVD player as well as a HDD to store then replay a movie may be provided);

transmitting, via the sink component (228), A/V program data from at least one of the source components to a presentation device; and receiving, via the sink component, a user selection of at least one of the plurality of source components for displaying an A/V menu data stream associated with the selected source component on the presentation device (see [0138] for access, [0128] for reception and transmission).

As to claim 23, claim 23 is similar to claim 13 except that claim 23 represents an apparatus and claim 13 is a method; hence, claim 23 is analyzed the same as claim 13 (see above)(see [0138] for access, [0128] for reception and transmission).

As to claim 2, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to decode (82) the A/V program data (see [0065] decoder is part of user station).

As to claim 3, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to transmit the A/V program data to the presentation device in real-time (see [0162] proprietary real-time decoding may occur for playback rather than storage).

As to claim 4, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the source components is selected from the group consisting of a satellite receiver source component (600),



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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul J. Graham whose telephone number is 571-270-1705. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00a-5:00p EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on 571-272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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9/4/2007



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA  
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a digital versatile disk (DVD) source component (46), a compact disc (CD) source component (28), a computer (36), and a cable source component (600) (see [0128], [0065], [0126], [0151-0152]).

As to claim 5, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register the storage system with the sink component (see [0154] the stored media is registered for presentation, for billing purposes).

As to claim 6, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component (610) is adapted to perform a registration operation to register at least one available type of communication network for communicating with the storage system (36) (see [0156] the communication network will be registered or defined and accepted as the network to access storage to a central controller, which will store user information).

As to claim 7, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register a format of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components (see [0163-0165], the sink registers the format of a CD or another type of storage media for playback).

As to claim 8, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to present to the user an aggregated listing (110) of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components (see [0075] an aggregate listing is presented in an interactive program guide).

As to claim 9, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to present to the user a filtered aggregated listing of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components based on a format of the A/V program data available from

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As to claim 25, claim 25 is similar to claim 2; therefore claim 25 is analyzed with respect to claim 23 and claim 2 (see above).

As to claim 26, claim 26 is similar to claim 5; therefore claim 26 is analyzed with respect to claim 23 and claim 5 (see above).

As to claim 27, Hunter discloses the system of claim 23, further comprising means for registering each of the plurality of source components residing on the centralized storage system with the sink component (see [0163-0165], the sink registers the CD or another type of media player for playback).

#### ***Conclusion***

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Inomata et al. (US 5 473 317) teaches an audio-visual component system that uses remote control operation of the individual components.

#### ***Inquiries***

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

### ***Inquiries***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul J. Graham whose telephone number is 571-270-1705. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00a-5:00p EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on 571-272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.